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State of New Jersey

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Governor

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September 4, 2007

Newark, NJ 07101

Via Overnight Mail

Marlene H. Dortch Office of the Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445-12th Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20554

Karen Majcher Vice President, High Cost and Low Income Division Universal Service Administrative Company 2000 L Street, NW Suite 200 Washington, D.C. 20036

Re: Warwick Valley Telephone Company—Certification with Regard to the Use of Universal Service Support

CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch and Ms. Majcher:

Enclosed for filing on behalf of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (the "Board"), are two copies of the Board's recent Order of Approval and Certification submitted in compliance with the Board's certification requirement under 47 C.F.R. § 54.314. Please file one copy and return the second one marked filed in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope.

The Board's Order of Approval and Certification reflects the sworn affidavit of Kenneth Volz, Vice President of Warwick, in which he stated that



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Warwick Valley Telephone Company hereby certifies that it will only use the federal high-cost universal support it receives for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of the facilities and service for which support is intended, as required by 5254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and 41 C.F.R. § 54.101 et seq.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

ANNE MILGRAM ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY

By:

Babette Tenzer

Deputy Attorney General

Cc: Anthony Centrella, BPU
Joyce Stoeberl, Director of External Affairs
Martin Rothsfelder, Esq.
Bruce Gallagher, BPU



Agenda Date: 08/22/07 Agenda Item: IV A

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities Two Gateway Center Newark, NJ 07102 www.bpu.state.nj.us

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF WARWICK)
VALLEY TELEPHONE COMPANY FOR CERTIFICATION)
WITH REGARD TO THE USE OF UNIVERSAL SERVICE)
SUPPORT)

ORDER OF APPROVAL & CERTIFICATION

DOCKET NO. TO01090575

(SERVICE LIST ATTACHED)

BY THE BOARD:

On July 2, 2007, pursuant to 47 <u>C.F.R.</u> §54.314, Warwick Valley Telephone Company (Warwick) filed a verified petition with the Board of Public Utilities (Board) requesting that the Board file a certification with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that Warwick's use of Universal Service Support funds is consistent with the purposes for which such funds may be used, according to federal law. Under FCC regulations, this certification must be filed by the Board with the FCC by October 1, 2007 in order for Warwick to receive its full allocation of funds for the coming year. Because of this federal deadline, Warwick has requested expedited treatment of this matter, which the Board has agreed to provide.

Warwick is an incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) providing telecommunications services to customers in the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, and Township of West Milford, County of Passaic, New Jersey, and the towns of Warwick and Goshen, New York. Warwick provides service to approximately 21,689 access lines, of which approximately 7,873 are in New Jersey. Warwick is a rural telephone company as defined by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, P.L. 104-104, 110 Stat. 56 (codified in scattered sections of 47 <u>U.S.C.</u> §§151 <u>et seq.</u>) (hereinafter, the Act). <u>See 47 U.S.C.</u> §153(37). The Board has previously certified Warwick as an eligible telecommunications carrier pursuant to 47 <u>U.S.C.</u> §214(e). <u>See</u> Order of Approval, <u>I/M/O a Petition by Warwick Valley Telephone Company for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Docket No. TO97080587 (November 25, 1997). Under the Act, certification as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier is necessary in order to receive federal Universal Service Support. 47 <u>U.S.C.</u> §254(e).</u>

The FCC's rule at 47 <u>C.F.R.</u> §54.314(a) requires that, in order for Warwick to receive Universal Service Support funds, the Board must file an annual certification with the fund administrator and the FCC stating that "all federal high-cost support provided to [Warwick] will be used only for provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and service for which the support is intended." Pursuant to 47 <u>C.F.R.</u> §54.314(d), the Board's annual certification must be filed with

The Board <u>FURTHER DIRECTS</u> Warwick to continue to file its future requests for Board certification no later than July 1st of each year, absent extenuating circumstances, and to simultaneously publish notice of the filing in newspapers of general circulation in its service territory. Warwick shall submit the proposed form of notice for review by Staff prior to its publication.

In addition, the Board <u>HEREBY REQUESTS</u> that the Attorney General's office provide, to both the Office of the Secretary of the FCC and the Administrator of the high-cost universal service support mechanism, a letter transmitting this Order as compliance with the certification requirements as set forth in 47 C.F.R. §54.314(c).

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

PRESIDENT

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

CHRISTINE V. BATOR COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

SECRETARY

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public Utilities

BPU Docket No. TO01090575

Service List

Docket No. T001090575

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